Shortage of IT Officers

†1171. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated increase in recovery of direct tax in the year, 2007-08 in comparison to year, 2006-07;

(b) the quantum of shortage of Income Tax (IT) officers and employees at present and details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the number of officers and employees for which in recruitment procedure has been started by Government;

(d) the reasons for not recruiting officers and employees earlier; and

(e) by when the recruitment procedure would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Direct tax collection has been growing more than 40 percent during current Financial Year (2007-08). The Income Tax Department has collected Rs 2,32,676 crore up to February 2008 which is 41.70 percent high than the corresponding figure during the previous year.

(b) As the Cadre control in the Income Tax Department is not bifurcated State-wise, the overall manpower position of the Department is as under:

Sr. No	Post(s)	No. of Sanctioned Posts	Shortage/vacancy position available as on 30/09/2007
1.	Group A	4430	1134
2.	Group B	6217	374
3.	Group C	42413	13599
4.	Group D	8403	2246
	TOTAL	61463	17353

(as on 30/09/2007)

(c) Recruitment procedure for 7051 new posts approved by the Cabinet *vide* Cabinet Secretariat order dated 8th November, 2006, has been started and the Staff Selection Commission has already initiated the process for recruitment of Income Tax Inspectors, Tax Assistants and Stenographers and those recommended for recruitment are being allocated to different charges. Surplus staff nominated by the DoPT has also been allocated to various Charges in an effort to partially meet the shortfall. Further, 614 posts for Annual Direct Recruitment Plan (ADRP) 2006-07 and 602 posts for ADRP 2007-08 against the overall vacancies in Groups B, C, and D in the Income Tax Department have been approved for filling up by the Screening Committee in December, 2007. The process for filling up the remaining vacancies has not yet been initiated.

(d) The Government of India's Policy of limiting the direct recruitment to 1/3rd of total direct recruitment vacancies subject to 1% of the total sanction of staff strength has restricted direct recruitment to various cadres.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) Recruitment of the posts cleared for filling-up an ongoing process, while filling of the other vacancies is subject to Government orders on recruitment.

Sharing of profit between Centre and States

1172. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Twelfth Finance Commission recommended 50:50 of profit sharing, between States and Centre in Petroleum and Natural Gas reserves;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made therein with reference to sharing of Gas reserves;

(c) whether this recommendation pertained to "on shore Gas finds" or "off shore Gas finds" or either of them;

(d) whether Government would assure of sharing by 50:50 between Centre and Andhra Pradesh, with regards to gas finds in Krishna Godavari Basin and first priority to Andhra Pradesh with regards to supply of these Gas reserves; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The Central Government has accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission to share Profit Petroleum (PP) and Production Level Payment (PLP) arising out of on land contracts under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy respectively with the concerned States in the ratio of 50:50 subject to the condition this should be within the overall ceiling of transfers recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission (38% of gross revenue). However, this profit sharing will not be applicable for pre-NELP and Joint Venture blocks. As the above sharing has been approved for on land, this profit sharing will not be applicable to Krishna Godavari Basin off-shore block. As regards giving first priority to Andhra Pradesh with regards to supply of Gas reserves in KG Basin, operators are free to market the gas in the domestic market on arms length basis as per the Production Sharing Contract signed by Government and the respective contractor under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

Decline in share market value

1173. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is sharp decline in the share market value causing huge loss to the investors in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government has taken any initiative to regulate the fluctuations in the share market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The share market moves up or down continuously. The movement represented by Sensex recorded an increase of 34.5% during this fiscal on a point basis from end of March 2007 to end of February 2008. The loss or gain arising from market movements is notional. This arises continually with change in the value of the portfolios of investors with changes in prices of constituent securities.